

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of preparing a RecA-like recombinase/single-stranded nucleic acid probe complex, the method comprising reacting a single-stranded nucleic acid probe sample containing a homologous probe with a RecA-like recombinase in the presence of a nonhydrolyzable nucleotide co-factor the number of molecules of which is one quarter or more of the number of molecules of nucleotide residues in the single-stranded nucleic acid probe and 10 times or less the number of molecules of the RecA-like recombinase.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nonhydrolyzable nucleotide co-factor is ATP_yS, ADP· AlF₄⁻ (a mixture of ATP, aluminum nitrate, and sodium fluoride, or a mixture of ADP, aluminum nitrate, and sodium fluoride), dADP· AlF₄⁻ (a mixture of dATP, aluminum nitrate, and sodium fluoride, or a mixture of dADP, aluminum nitrate, and sodium fluoride), ADP· BeF₃⁻ (a mixture of ATP, beryllium sulfate, and sodium fluoride, or a mixture of ADP, beryllium sulfate, and sodium fluoride), or dADP· BeF₃⁻ (a mixture of dATP, beryllium sulfate, and sodium fluoride, or a mixture of dADP, beryllium sulfate, and sodium fluoride).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the homologous probe is at least two types of homologous probes that are sufficiently complementary to one another.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded nucleic acid probe sample is a mixture of the homologous probe and at least one type of heterologous probe.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded nucleic acid probe sample is reacted with the RecA-like recombinase in the presence of 0.5 to 2.0 mM magnesium ions.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the RecA-like recombinase is derived from a prokaryote.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the RecA-like recombinase is derived from *Escherichia coli*.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the RecA-like recombinase has a label or a ligand.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the homologous probe has a label or a ligand.

10.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the label or ligand is biotin or digoxigenin.

14.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the nonhydrolyzable cofactor is ATP γ S.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the number of nonhydrolyzable nucleotide cofactor molecules is five times or less than the number of RecA-like recombinase molecules.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the number of nonhydrolyzable nucleotide cofactor molecules is three times or less than the number of RecA-like recombinase molecules.